REMARKS

In the previously filed Amendment, claims 1 through 13 were canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 14 through 37 were newly added. By this Amendment After Final, claims 14, 15 and 22 are being amended. Thus, claims 14 through 37 are pending in the application.

Claim 15 has been objected to for the reasons stated in section 2 on page 2 of the Office Action and by this Amendment, claim 15 has been revised in response thereto.

Claims 14-37 have been rejected under 35 USC §102 as anticipated by Ishii for the reasons stated in section 4 on pages 2-4 of the Office Action and this rejection is traversed the following reasons:

The Examiner's rejection corresponds to the earlier rejection contained within the April 16, 2004 earlier Office Action.

In the April 22, 2004 Amendment, Applicants argued that the present invention relates to a system of networked printers in which at least one host computer is connected via a network to the plurality of networked printers. Information and commands are transmitted therebetween to reduce the standby time for printing. All of the operations of the system are handled by the at least one host computer and the plurality of networked printers via the

network connected therebetween. **No print server is necessary.**

In response thereto, the Examiner states "However, Ishii teaches a direct communication between a printer and host computer without having to use the print server (page 1)."

Applicants disagree with the Examiner's above-noted statement. There is nothing in the entire Ishii translation that indicates or even suggests that the network print system is operable without a print server. In fact, the Examiner's attention is directed to the "SOLUTION" stated in the Abstract of Ishii which states:

When computers 10 to 13 and printers 20 to 22 are connected to the network 50 and a computer prints printed data on a printer, **a print server 30 connected to the network 50 temporarily stores the print data from the computer, selects and determines an optimum printer out of the printer devices 20 to 22 according to printer information including operation states and print characteristic information obtained by inquiring the printer information of the printer devices connected to the network, and sends the print data to the determined printer device to print the print data.**

Furthermore, in response to the Argument that the present invention operates without a print server, the Examiner states that claims 14-37 do not recite the nature of network

communication without a print server.

Applicants disagree with a Examiner since the entire application and present claims are directed to a networked printer system that operates without a print server. It is clear from the recitation of claim 14 that the only elements in the networked system are the printers connected to at least one host computer. It is clear that all of the method steps of claim 14 and claim 22, for example, refer to operations that are only carried out by the at least one host computer. In addition, systems claim 30 only recites at least one host computer, a plurality of network printers, and a network adapted to transfer data between the at least one host computer and the plurality of networked printer and further recites that the controller of the at least one host computer performs the various functions of the networked printer system.

Stated simply, it is inherent in the recitation of claims 14-37 that the at least one host computer performs all of the needed operations of the networked printer system. Ishii, on the other hand, is clearly directed to a networked printer system in which a print server performs all of the needed operations thereof. The entire translation of Ishii is directed to the operation of the print server 30 and its interaction with the computer is 10-13 and printers 20-22 (*see* pages 3-7 of the translation).

As to the specific points raised by the Examiner, the Examiner argues:

(1) that the registering step registers a plurality of printers with a print server. As noted above, the present invention operates without a print server.

(2) that the accessing step accesses information of the printers that [are] connected via a network. However, paragraph 0028 of Ishii indicates that the print server 30 performs this function rather than the at least one host computer as in the present invention.

(3) that the transmitting of a request command from the at least one host computer to the networked printers requesting the networked printers to transmit standby print information to the at least one host computer. However, paragraphs [0028]-[0038] of Ishii indicate that elements 301-306 of the print server 30 perform this function rather than the at least one host computer as in the present invention.

(4)-(5) that the determining and transmitting steps are disclosed in Ishii. However, as noted above, the print server 30 perform this function rather than the at least one host computer as in the present invention.

In view of the above, it is submitted that claims 14-37, as is, are patentable over Ishii for the reasons noted above. However, for the sake of expediency, claims 14 and 22 have been amended to now clearly recite that the at least one host computer performs the various functions of the networked printer system.

As noted above, it is submitted that it is inherent in claims 14-29, and clearly recited in claims 30-37, that the various steps are performed by the at least one host computer. Accordingly, it is submitted that the scope of claims 14-29 has not been changed by this amendment. Furthermore, this amendment was not previously presented in that Applicants submit that it is inherent in claims 14-29 that the various steps are performed by the at least one host computer.

In view of the above, it is submitted that claims 14-37 are patentable over Ishii and should therefore now be in a condition suitable for allowance.

No other issues remaining, reconsideration and favorable action upon all of the claims now present in the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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